

Did you know that every year, millions of pounds of inkjet, laser, fax and copier cartridges are tossed away as trash? Over 250 million pounds of empty cartridges are thrown into landfills annually and this figure is on the rise. And what about all those old cell phones? Recent reports suggest that by 2005 there could be as many as 500 million cell phones headed for our landfills. Together, with empty cartridges, this translates into about 200,000 tons of waste per year. The good news is that all of these items are recyclable!

In an effort to reduce the amount of trash going to the landfills, the Morgan Hill Downtown Association is collecting spent printer/toner cartridges for recycling. The Association utilizes a no-cost program that pays them cash for empty inkjet, laser, fax and copier cartridges that they mail in. "Recycling is our first goal," said Dan Craig, Director of the Downtown Association. "Any money we receive is an added bonus and will go towards Downtown Association programs." If you'd like to participate, you can drop off your used cartridges at Jody's Junction and BookSmart.

The Morgan Hill Unified School District has been utilizing a similar program for about a year now with positive results. Their program accepts used cell phones as well as empty cartridges. The program was implemented by Peter McKenna, Supervisor of Operations for the School District, who says that the funds they collect are used for things the schools can't usually afford such as books and field trips. According to McKenna, the first year of the program generated approximately \$3,000.00.

Don't throw your used cartridges and old cell phones away - donate them to a good cause! Your participation will benefit you, your community and the environment. For more information, contact Russ Danielson (Downtown Association) at 776-1168 or Peter McKenna (MHUSD) at 778-6071.